

NSC BRIEFING

24 June 1954

KOREAN ORDER OF BATTLE

- I. Chinese Communist - Ground: (Unit - An Army: Strength - 43,441 men)
- A. On Front (Cease-Fire) - 8
(Present) - 4
- B. In Korea (Cease-Fire) - 19
(Present) - 11
- C. Total (present) -- 660,000 (including support troops)
- D. Eight of the nineteen Chinese armies present in Korea before the armistice have left, and Chinese strength has dropped from 872,000 (wartime peak) to 660,000. Relief of an additional Chinese army from the front may be imminent. Chinese withdrawals commenced at or just before armistice; have been gradual. No significance attributable to timing of withdrawals, which were presumably phased in accordance with North Korean readiness to take over.
- II. North Korean - Ground: (Unit - A Corps: Strength - 28,892 men)
- A. On Front (Cease-Fire) - 2
(Present) - 4
- B. In Korea (Cease-Fire) - 6
(Present) - 7-8

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- C. Total (present) -- 356,000 (including support troops)
- D. North Korean strength has increased from 282,000 at the armistice to a present 356,000. Major components include: 19-22 infantry divisions, 7 infantry brigades, 7 armored regiments, 12 AAA regiments and 4 AAA battalions. Forces apparently put on line as training completed.

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III. ROK - Ground: (Unit - A Division: Strength - 14,000 men)

- A. On Front (Cease-Fire) - 10
(Present) - 13
- B. In Korea (Cease-Fire) - 15
(Present) - 20
- C. Total (present) -- 623,000 (including support troops and one Marine Brigade).
- D. ROK replaced UN units in less critical areas as trained. However, note that ROK 21st Division was put in critical Chorwon area on 4 June.

IV. US - Ground: (Unit - A Division: Strength - 18,000 men)

- A. On Front (Cease-Fire) - 6
(Present) - 3
- B. In Korea (Cease-Fire) - 8
(Present) - 6

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C. Total (present) -- 235,500 (including support troops).

D. In addition to US Divisions, UN forces include:

Commonwealth Division, Turk Brigade, eight miscellaneous UN battalions (total 33,500).

V. Chinese Communist - Air

A. In Korea (Cease-Fire) - None

(Present) - None

B. In Manchuria (Cease-Fire) - Jets: 400-425 MIG-15's

130 IL-28's

Conventional: 110 Fighter/
Attack

(Present) - Jets: 300 MIG-15's

130 IL-28's

Conventional: 110 Fighter/
Attack

C. Total (present) -- 430 Jets, 110 Conventional

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VI. North Korean - Air

A. In Korea (Cease-Fire) - Negligible

(Present) - Jets: 170 MIG-15's

Conventional: 100 Fighter/
Attack

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- B. In Manchuria (Cease-Fire) - Jets: 170 MIG-15's
40 IL-28's
Conventional: 5 TU-2's
100 Fighter/
Attack
(Present) - Jets: 40 IL-28's
Conventional: 30 TU-2's
- C. Total (present) -- 210 Jets, 130 Conventional
- D. All NK aircraft, except bombers, moved into Korea
at armistice. Total strength is about same as at
cease-fire.

VII. USSR - Air

- A. In Korea (Cease-Fire) - None
(Present) - None
- B. In Manchuria (Cease-Fire) - Jets: 400 MIG-15's
Conventional: 40 Fighters
(Present) - Jets: 250 MIG-15's
- C. Total (present) -- 250 Jets.

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VIII. ROK - Air

- A. In Korea (Cease-Fire) - Conventional: 80 F-51's
(Present) - Conventional: 80 F-51's
- B. Total (present) -- 80 Conventional F-51's

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VIII-A. US Air (excludes Navy, Marines)

A. In Korea - (present) - Jets - 350 jet Fighters

Conventional - 90 B-26

attack bombers

B. In Japan and

rest of Theater - (present) - Jets - 455 jet Fighters

Conventional - 55

piston bombers

C. Total - FEAF (present) - Jets - 805

Conventional - 155

D. Marines have 125 jet fighter/bombers in Korea.

E. Navy has one carrier in Korean waters and three other carriers in Western Pacific available for Korea, adding 240 jet fighters and 60 conventional attack bombers to US air strength in area.

F. Grand total US tactical air strength in Far East for possible commitment in Korea:

Jets - 1160

Conventional - 215

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IX. Naval Forces

- A. The North Korean navy is equipped with small patrol and mine craft, but has no major combat vessels.
- B. The South Korean navy is equipped with 24 patrol, 11 amphibious and nine auxilliary vessels. ROK Marine Corps is composed of one combat brigade of two regiments.

X. General

- A. Although current disposition and attitude of enemy forces in Korea are defensive, Communist forces retain the capability to attack with little warning. They could not, because of Chinese withdrawals, sustain a major offensive without reinforcements from Manchuria.
- B. NK vs ROK capabilities:
 - 1. ROK has superior manpower potential.
 - 2. Approximately equal in ground combat strength.
 - 3. North greatly superior in air strength.
 - 4. South deficient in antiaircraft artillery.
 - 5. North possesses higher total most major fire-support weapons.
 - 6. Both dependent on outside logistical aid.
 - 7. North air superiority and availability logistical support probably decisive.

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